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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,192	12/12/2000	Kazuhiko Tomita	1344.1051/JDH	4249

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EXAMINER

WINTER, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/734,192

Applicant(s)

TOMITA, KAZUHIKO

Examiner

John M Winter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-12 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Abbruzzese et al., (US Patent No 5,557,515).

As per claim 1,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses A computer readable recording medium recorded with an electronic authorization program, for realizing on a computer:

an authorization result registration function of registering a result of authorization in a database when an object requesting authorization is to be authorized or repudiated; (Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

an authorization result reference function of making a reference to the past results of authorization registered in the database for each object requesting authorization and for each person requesting authorization. (Column 16 lines 7-11)

As per claim 2,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses a computer readable recording medium recorded with an electronic authorization program according to claim 1,

wherein said authorization result registration function registers, in the database, said result of authorization or repudiation for said object requesting authorization, and repudiation reasons when the repudiation is rendered. (Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

As per claim 3,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) a computer readable recording medium recorded with an electronic authorization program according to claim 2,

wherein said authorization result reference function makes a reference to accumulated number of cases of authorization or repudiation and accumulated number of cases of the repudiated reasons within a predetermined term concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database. (Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

As per claim 5,

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Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing device comprising:
authorization result registration means for registering a result of authorization in a database when an object requesting authorization is to be authorized or repudiated;(Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

authorization result reference means for making a reference to the past results of authorization registered in the database for each object requesting authorization and for each person requesting authorization.(Column 16 lines 7-11)

As per claim 6,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing device according to claim 5,

wherein said authorization result registration means registers, in the database, the result of authorization or repudiation for the object requesting authorization, and repudiation reasons when the repudiation is rendered.(Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

As per claim 7,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing device according to claim 6,

wherein said authorization result reference means makes a reference to accumulated number of cases of authorization or repudiation and accumulated number of cases of the repudiated reasons within a predetermined term concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database.(Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

As per claim 9,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing method comprising:
an authorization result registration process of registering a result of authorization in a database when an object requesting authorization is to be authorized or repudiated; (Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

an authorization result reference process of making a reference to the past results of authorization registered in the database for each object requesting authorization and for each person requesting authorization.(Column 16 lines 7-11)

As per claim 10,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing method according to claim 9,

wherein said authorization result registration process registers, in the database, a repudiation for the object requesting of repudiation when the repudiation is result of authorization or authorization, and reasons rendered.(Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

11. An electronically authorizing method according to claim 10, wherein said authorization result reference process makes a reference to

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accumulated number of cases of authorization or repudiation and accumulated number of cases of the repudiated reasons within a predetermined term concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database.(Column 15, lines 56-67; column 16 lines 1-15)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4,8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbruzzese et al., (US Patent No 5,557,515).

As per claim 4,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing device according to claim

2.

Official Notice is taken that “a ratio of the repudiated reasons during a predetermined term in the form of a chart concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database” is common and well known in prior art in reference to system authorization. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a ratio of repudiated reasons to form a chart because this allows the system administrator to determine the effectiveness of the authorization process with minimal effort.

As per claim 8,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing device according to claim

6.

Official Notice is taken that “a ratio of the repudiated reasons during a predetermined term in the form of a chart concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database” is common and well known in prior art in reference to system authorization. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a ratio of repudiated reasons to form a chart because this allows the system administrator to determine the effectiveness of the authorization process with minimal effort.

As per claim 12,

Abbruzzese et al ('515) discloses an electronically authorizing device according to claim

10.

Official Notice is taken that “a ratio of the repudiated reasons during a predetermined term in the form of a chart concerning the past results of authorization registered in the database” is common and well known in prior art in reference to system authorization. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a ratio of

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repudiated reasons to form a chart because this allows the system administrator to determine the effectiveness of the authorization process with minimal effort.

Conclusion

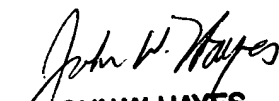
Examiners note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Winter whose telephone number is (703) 305-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on (703)305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

JMW
March 23, 2003


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER